



2013-2015 Report on Cheltenham Township Sustainability Plan

The Cheltenham Township Board of Commissioners adopted a Sustainability Plan in 2013 featuring Ten Sustainability Goals. The goals are broad and encompassing, providing a framework for the community to move towards a more sustainable future. The Cheltenham Environmental Advisory Council (EAC), a citizen committee established by the Board of Commissioners, was asked to oversee the sustainability effort. The EAC prepared this report to help track the community's progress towards sustainability, which is in keeping with the plan's final goal: monitoring. The report lists known efforts conducted by the Township, Cheltenham School District and the community in 2013 through 2015, organized according to Sustainability Goals.

1. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Engage and educate all Cheltenham residents and stakeholders to unite behind a shared set of goals to build a sustainable future.

Township Actions

- 2013-14 Annual Report and Calendar featured sustainability theme throughout.
- Published Sustainability Goals in Township newsletter and website. Spring 2013
- Published Sustainability Pledge in Township newsletter, website and cable channel. Fall 2013
- Published Sustainable Cheltenham Award Nominations in Township newsletter, website and cable channel. Spring 2014
- Published Sustainable Cheltenham Award Nominations in Township newsletter, website, cable channel and Facebook. Spring 2015
- Posted Sustainable Sunday Tips on Township Facebook. 2015
- Mailed Annual Municipal Separate Storm Sewer (MS4) Mini-Posters with EMS Subscription to Township residents. 2013, 2014, 2015
- Sustainability Goals featured on Township telephone on-hold message. 2013, 2014, 2015
- Published annual MS4 Ads on Clean Water in *Time Chronicle*. 2013, 2014
- Posted Annual Montgomery County Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program information on Township website, cable access channels and Facebook. 2013, 2014, 2015

EAC Contributions

- Staffed Outreach Table - TTF Movie Night. 2014
- Staffed Outreach Table - Harvest Festival. 2014, 2015
- Staffed Outreach Table - Run for Jake. 2014, 2015
- Water Conservation and "Do's & Don'ts of Recycling"
- Staffed Outreach Table - Glenside Arts Festival. 2014, 2015
- Promoted Earth Day projects and cleanups. 2013, 2014, 2015
- Incorporated Sustainable Cheltenham Festival in Arts in the Park in cooperation with Friends of High School Park. 2014, 2015. Eli Laban created a video from the 2014 Festival that is posted on the Cheltenham Township website.
- Presented Sustainable Cheltenham Awards to 18 Recipients. 2014, 2015
- Emailed monthly Cheltenham EAC Newsletter, circulation approx. 3,000. 2014, 2015

Cheltenham High School Is in Hot Water!

In 2014 a solar hot water system was installed that meets 65% of the school's needs. This system preheats water using rooftop panels that are heated by the sun. Through a heat exchange/storage system with the domestic water piping, heated water is distributed to lavatories and sinks throughout the building. The savings from reduced use of electricity for heating water will pay back the initial cost of the system in about seven years.

- Sustainability Tour of Cheltenham ShopRite (a zero waste store) with David Deets, Brown's ShopRite, Sustainability Manager. Dec 3, 2015

School District Actions

- Myers School Student Green Ambassadors created. 2013
- Wyncote School Student Green Ambassadors created. 2015
- Cheltenham High School student representatives at EAC. 2015
- Glenside, Cedarbrook & Cheltenham High School student volunteers conducted community environmental surveys at events. 2014, 2015

Community Actions

- Arcadia Green & Healthy School Seminar: 50 attendees from area school and universities. April 9, 2015
- TTF distributed eNewsletters/Announcements. 20013, 2014, 2015
- TTF partnered with the Friends of High School Park on their Living Streamside Workshops on how residents can manage stormwater at home held at the La Mott Community Center. April 6, 2013
- TTF hosted a Shopping Night at Dovetail Artisans in Glenside, providing stormwater management and watershed protection information to the 30 people who attended. December 4, 2013
- TTF Managing Rainfall: TTF Stormwater Tour organized and led a stormwater green infrastructure tour demonstrating innovative green stormwater infrastructure to manage stormwater runoff. Sites visited were High School Park, Glenside Elementary School and Arcadia University. April 2, 2014
- TTF canvassed area around Parkview Park to distribute information on riparian buffers prior to invasive weed removal. 2015
- TTF mailed over 900 letters to creekside property owners to learn about backyard buffer program. 2014

2. ENERGY



Maximize energy efficiency, minimize energy demand and emissions, and shift all community electricity consumption to renewably-sourced energy generated within the Township and the region

Township Actions

- Installed new high efficiency gas boiler at Elkins Park Library. 2015
- Installed new ductless A/C wall mounted Fujitsu system in the computer server room of the Township Administration Building. 2014
- Signed three-year contract for electricity with Constellation New Energy at a rate of 0.0674 per kWh for three years, which includes a 25% usage of Green Energy in Renewables in Mix Wind Energy Products., 2013, 2015, 2015
- Installed new energy efficient roof at Rowland Community Center. 2014
- Lighting fixture efficiency upgrade / retrofit installed in Glenside Memorial Hall basement, for T-8 energy efficiency. 2013-14
- Extended natural gas service to the EMS building (a.k.a. Azalea Hall) and installed a new dual fuel gas-oil boiler. 2013
- Installed white roofs at Police Administration Building and Public Service Facility to reduce energy demand. 2012-2013
- Installed white roof at the Rowland Community Center. 2014-15
- Recognized by Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission as Municipal Leader in Energy Efficiency. 2014
- Greater Valley Forge TMA "Communities in Motion Star" for Sustainable Cheltenham Plan. 2014
- Awarded Greater Valley Forge TMA Platinum Sustainability Award. 2015

EAC Contributions

- Prepared and submitted letter of endorsement to Cheltenham Commissioners to disinvest in fossil fuel/energy extraction companies in the Cheltenham pension plans. 2014
- Hosted presentation of Premier Energy Auction for Township energy use. 2015
- Hosted presentation by Solar City on solar residential. 2015

School District Actions

- Installed solar hot water system at Cheltenham High School. 2014 (see insert above).
- Cheltenham High School Energy Star Portfolio Manager Benchmarking – High score - 92 out of 100.
- Wyncote Elementary School is conditioned by a high-performance energy efficient water source heat pump system which has the ability to move heat from one space to another through water, which requires minimal work. 2015
- Installed occupancy sensors to control the lighting in most spaces. Cheltenham (2013) and Wyncote (2015) Elementary Schools
- Installed individual temperature controls in each classroom to help reduce unnecessary energy consumption and improve thermal comfort. Cheltenham (2013) and Wyncote (2015) Elementary Schools.

Community Actions

- Einstein Medical Center Elkins Park purchases 25% of energy from alternative source.
- Solar panels installed:
 - 8023 Wetherill Rd, Cheltenham (2013)
 - 500 Laverock Road (2015)
 - 401 N Sterling Road (2015)

3. MOBILITY



Minimize vehicular travel and emissions, increase use of alternative modes of transportation, and make it desirable, safe, and convenient to walk and bike throughout the Township and connect to the region.

Township Actions

- Participated in Montgomery County Walkability Study for Cheltenham Elementary. 2015
- Design of ¾ mile walking trail commenced for Phase III of the Tookany Creek Trail; \$400,000 was secured in a William Penn Grant for trail construction. 2015
- Completed traffic flow striping near Elkins Park Train Station. 2014
- Expanded Cheltenham-Only Transit for seniors from three days a week to five days a week. 2015
- Installation of bike racks at Township Administration Building (2014) and libraries.
- Township began purchasing hybrid vehicles for retiring Township fleet, where possible. 2013
- Township installed preferential parking for hybrids in Township Administration Building parking lot. 2013

EAC Contributions

- Explored bike sharrows (share the road signs) for Tookany Creek Parkway. 2014
- Bike Corral @ Sustainable Cheltenham Festival, Arts in the Park. 2014, 2015

School District Actions

- Participated in Montgomery County Walkability Study for Cheltenham Elementary. 2015
- Myers Elementary hosted a “walking school bus” day. 2014
- Invested in a new fleet of ultra-low sulfur diesel buses. 2013

Community Actions

- TTF partnered with Cheltenham Township to host an informational meeting about the Circuit, the regional trail network, attended by 25 residents at Glenside Hall. (October 29, 2013)
- Arcadia University is a location for ZIP car. 2013, 2014, 2015

4. WASTE REDUCTION



Minimize solid and hazardous waste disposal, and maximize the re-use of waste products as a resource.

Township Action

- Added electronic waste drop-off recycling. 2013, 2014, 2015
- Converted to easier single-stream, automatic recycling. 2013
- Township Annual Report and Calendar published with 30% recycled paper containing post-consumer waste. 2013, 2014, 2015
- Uses and provides to public mulch recycled from leaf collection program. 2014, 2014, 2015
- Uses recycled mailing labels. 2014, 2015
- Township Update newsletter is published on recycled paper. 2013, 2014, 2015
- All Township Municipal Separate Storm Sewer permit (MS4) mini-posters are printed in recycled paper including post-consumer waste. 2013, 2014, 2015
- Collects election signs at the Public Works Facility for recycling through a Montgomery County program. 2013, 2014, 2015
- Recycles out-of-date letterhead stationery into notepads used by employees. 2014, 2014, 2015

EAC Contributions

- Art from trash demonstration at Arts in the Park featuring Sustainable Cheltenham. 2014

School District Actions

- The EAC assisted Cheltenham High School in conducting a waste audit, and the students created an inventory of missing recycling containers.
- Cheltenham High School students visited the Waste Management Material Recovery Facility to observe recycled materials being sorted, bailed and shipped to markets. 2014
- Elkins Park School held an assembly focused on recycling from hauler Waste Management featuring a visit from the recycling robot who spoke to the students about recycling. 2013
- All schools are working on improving recycling programs and quantities collected. 2013-2015
- Cheltenham High School, Glenside Elementary, Myers all received \$500 Wrigley Grants to improve recycling their programs. 2015

Community Actions

- Electronic waste totals: 47.84 tons in 2013; 62.96 tons in 2014; 21.76 tons as of May 2015
- Composting totals: 42,500 cubic yards in 2013; 41,480 cubic yards in 2014.
- Township Recycling Rates(waste stream diverted from landfills) 2013 – 28.2%, 2014 – 29.1%, 2015-30%

Celebrating Sustainable Cheltenham

Beginning in 2014, the Cheltenham EAC joined Friends of High School Park to showcase Sustainable Cheltenham at the Annual Arts in the Park on the first Sunday in June. The event provided EAC an opportunity to educate community residents about energy efficiency, recycling, water conservation, etc., through educational displays, fun family learning activities and awards. The festival also featured a bike corral, recycled art project and community sustainability survey's conducted by Cedarbrook Middle School students.

To honor and celebrate exceptional residents, businesses and institutions that foster sustainability through at least three goals from the Sustainable Cheltenham Plan, the EAC publicly presents annual Sustainability Awards. Here are the past winners:

2014/15 Residents

1. Sidney Kahn
2. Andrew Rudin
3. Oskar Dressnandt
4. Ben Adams and Gail Korostoff
5. Dottie Baumgarten
6. Judith Gratz

2014 /15 Businesses

1. Creekside Co-op
2. Primex
3. LaMott Community Garden
4. Elcy's Café
5. Glenside Farmer's Market

2014 Schools

1. Ancillea Assupta
2. Myers Elementary

2014/15 Institutions

1. Samuel Green House, Federation Housing
2. Ramah Day Camp
3. Tookany Tacony Frankford Partnership Watershed Association
4. Kol Ami Hazon CSA

5. WATER MANAGEMENT



Minimize stormwater hazards, reduce wastewater flows, increase natural absorption of rainwater

Township Actions

- Township commissioned the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to undertake a Tookany Creek Watershed Flood Damage Reduction Feasibility Study. 2013-2015
- Township resumed progress on Glenside Flood Control Project. 2013
- Four Bickley Road properties purchased, demolished and regraded as permanent open space for flood control. 2015
- Township expanded no mow zones in parks. 2013
- Township continues planting natives in riparian buffers. 2013, 2014, 2015
- Riparian Corridor Conservation District Ordinance adopted. 2013
- Fats, Oil & Grease Ordinance adopted. 2014
- Sewer Fee calculations revised to encourage water conservation. Information in special mailing to residents and fall 2014 newsletter. 2015
- Township wins Tookany/Tacony-Frankford Watershed Partnership Municipal Leader in Sustainability Award. 2013, 2014
- Township staff attended a Municipal Employee Stormwater Training by the Southeast PA Stormwater Alliance. April 24, 2013

EAC Contributions

- TTF partnered with the Friends of High School Park on their Living Streamside Workshops on a hands-on Rain Garden workshop culminating in the installation of a rain garden at the office of the Friends of High School Park. April 14, 2013
- TTF assisted in the Parkview Buffer Planting led by the Cheltenham EAC. October 26, 2013
- "Water Blues, Green Solution" movie screening, hosted by TTF partnership, focusing on maximizing the utility of rainwater as a resource. 2014
- In partnership with TTF, "Backyard Buffer" plantings conducted in resident yards (TTF WREN grant). 2014
- In partnership with TTF, held successful Rain Barrel Workshop. 25 participants in the workshop and 20 barrels were picked up from Rowland CC. 2015

School District Actions

- TTF assisted with the invasive plant removal efforts of the Cedarbrook Middle School Environmental Club at Curtis Arboretum. September 9, 2013
- Cheltenham High School storm drain marking. 2014
- Cheltenham has 20 Streamkeepers trained in Tookany Watershed that are monitoring streams on a regular basis. 2014-2015
- Cheltenham Elementary installed rain garden and green roofs in new school design/ construction. 2013
- Wyncote Elementary installed rain gardens and green roofs in new school design / construction. 2015

Community Actions

- Davita Dialysis Center installation of raingarden. 2014
- TTF planted 100 trees at Cheltenham's Rock Lane Park with funding from the TreeVitalize program. May 3, 2014
- TTF Buffer Planting in Parkview Park. 2015
- TTF invasive plant removal from riparian buffer in Parkview Park. 2015
- TTF riparian buffer planting around Curtis Arboretum waterways. 2015

6. ECOLOGICAL STEWARDSHIP



Protect and improve the overall health and ecological diversity of the Township's habitats, waterways, and soils, both on public and private lands.

Township Actions

- Curtis Arboretum Master Plan in progress. 2014, 2015
- National Arbor Day Foundation Tree City- USA (17th consecutive year in 2015).
- Continued management of Japanese Knotweed and other invasives around Tookany Creek and Township Parks. 2013, 2014, 2014

EAC Contributions

- Participated in the planting of over 45 new shade trees in John Russell Park with a TD Streets Urban Forestry grant sponsored by TD Bank
- With TTF Partnership and volunteers, planted 98 trees at Rock Lane Park along Rock Creek riparian area. 2014
- Parkview Park invasive cutbacks/removal with 19 volunteers and 3 TTF partnership staff attendees. Totaling 60 volunteer hours plus 10 hours of TTF staffing time. Parkview Park Planting (TreeVitalize grant) 21 volunteers and 67 volunteer hours. 2014
- Earth Day Projects clean-up and restoration at 12 project sites. 2014
- Earth Day Projects clean-up and restoration at 17 project sites. 2015

School District Actions

- Cheltenham Elementary planting of a milkweed butterfly garden. 2015
- Elkins Park School planted memory garden. 2015
- Myers Elementary School Planting and Greening. 2013, 2014, 2015
- Elkins Park School planted memory garden. 2015

Community Actions

- Developer Matrix/Goodman signed over 33 acres of land to Cheltenham Township at the former Ashbourne County Club for open space and trails. 2015
- TTF worked with the Primex Garden Center to promote their Gardening for Wildlife workshop, providing stormwater management and watershed protection information to the 15 attendees. February 8, 2014
- TTF partnered with the Friends of High School Park and Cheltenham Township Parks and Recreation Department to provide watershed protection and stormwater management information at the Maple Sugaring program at High School Park. 50 attendees. February 22, 2014
- TTF staff led two energetic groups of volunteers to survey for fresh water mussels in the Tookany Creek. July 8, 2014.

7. HEALTHY LIVING FOR ALL



Promote healthy living in Cheltenham through equitable, affordable, and safe access to information, education, recreation, natural areas, car-free transportation, fresh local foods, health care services, clean air, and clean water.

Township Actions

- Design of ¾ mile walking trail commenced for Phase III of the Tookany Creek Trail; \$400,000 was secured in a William Penn Grant to help offset the construction cost. 2015
- Glenside Library provides annual community vegetable garden. 2014, 2015
- Township enables Glenside Farmers Market to use SEPTA property each year. 2013, 2014, 2015
- Sundays in the Park each spring and fall closes the Tookany Parkway in for biking, walking and other outdoor pursuits. 2013, 2014, 2015

EAC Contributions

School District Actions

- Myers Elementary School Anti-Idling Campaign. 2014

- Cheltenham Elementary plants vegetable garden and donates harvest to Barachah Church. 2014-15

Community Actions

- Creekside Co-op provides local and organic foods and goods year-round. 2013, 2014, 2015.
- Elkins Park Train Station beautification. 2014-2015

8. LOCAL ECONOMY



Encourage and support local and regional agriculture, artisans, businesses, institutions, and industry by strengthening connections to, and markets for, local goods and services.

Township Actions

- Township sublease Glenside Train Station property from SEPTA for Glenside Farmers Market, 2013, 2014, 2015
- Township subleases Elkins Park Train Station from SEPTA for to the Cheltenham Center for the Arts as Elkins Central, a public gathering place where the arts are highlighted. 2015
- Township helped organize ribbon cutting celebration for redeveloped Wyncote Commons. 2015
- Lynnewood Gardens Apartments clubhouse ribbon cutting. 2015
- 1333 Cheltenham Avenue eateries ribbon cutting. 2015

EAC Contributions

School District Actions

- Food Truck Jamboree Fundraiser for Cheltenham Foundation (Panther Fund). 2014, 2015

Community Actions

- Revitalization of Elkins Park Train Station, three restaurants, a book store, craft store, opening of Elkins Park Train station for community events. 2014
- Opening of redeveloped Wyncote Commons and Glenside restaurant. 2015
- Downtown Glenside Arts Festival. 2014, 2015
- Downtown Glenside Food Truck event. 2014, 2015

9. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



Promote building, site development, and landscaping that respects the natural environment and maximizes clean and efficient use of resources, and ensure that all permitting, codes, and regulations support the community's sustainability goals.

Township Actions

- Riparian Corridor Conservation District Ordinance adopted. 2013
- Update of Township Zoning Code and map in progress. 2013, 2014, 2015

EAC Contributions

- Showcase/Tour of Sidney Kahn's LEED Platinum home. 2013

School District Actions

- Cheltenham Elementary School – LEED Gold expected. 2013
- Wyncote Elementary School – LEED Gold expected. 2015

Community Actions

- Re-use and redevelopment of existing buildings in Wyncote Commons. 2015

10. MONITOR PROGRESS



Track and report the progress of measurable implementation strategies; re-evaluate and update goals and targets as needed.

Township Actions

- Public Works Dept tracks Township curbside recycling statistics monthly. 2013, 2014, 2015
- "What's Your Clean Water Savvy" survey conducted. 2014, 2015

EAC Contributions

- Prepared a first year summary 2014
- 2015-2015 Sustainability Report. 2015

School District Actions

- Cedarbrook Middle School students polled residents at various events about recycling and watershed knowledge. 2014, 2015

Community Actions

- Eleven Cheltenham residents are monitoring stream water quality at the following sites within the Township on a monthly basis: Tookany Creek (Arcadia University, Glenside Elementary School, Ralph Morgan Park, High School Park, Cheltenham Little League); Shady Nooks Tributary (Grove Park); Rock Creek (Curtis Arboretum); Jenkintown Creek (Einstein Medical Center Elkins Park, Jenkintown Road). Monitoring started in August 2014.
- Arcadia University students conducted a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer (MS4) community survey to access various audiences' knowledge about clean water practices. 2015